

Appl. No. 09/641,820
Amdt. dated October 28, 2003
Reply to Interview of October 20, 2003

Remarks:

Examiner Fisher and Examiner Weiss are thanked for the courtesies extended to Applicant's undersigned representative, one of the co inventors, David Smith; and Applicant's corporate counsel, Rence Reuter, during the recent personal interview on October 20, 2003. During that interview, the co-inventor, David Smith, made a PowerPoint presentation illustrating the method and operation of the subject invention including many of the features provided thereby. Examples of these features included, most particularly, the relationship between the insurance company adjusters, the car rental company (Applicant), and the insurance company's insureds to which the rental cars are provided. This is a three-party business arrangement generating unique needs which were also explained during the course of the demonstration. For example, and as further explained in the application, insurance adjusters place high volumes of rental vehicle reservations with a car rental company and must manage their portfolio of reservations virtually on a daily basis in order to have them successfully completed as well as to minimize the amount of rental days consumed by each insured while his car is incapacitated. Through use of the present invention, many of the features and advantages, including the Internet connectivity between the insurance company and the rental car company, contribute to the ability of the adjusters to "manage" these transactions and for the insurance company to monitor each adjuster and his success or failure in doing so.

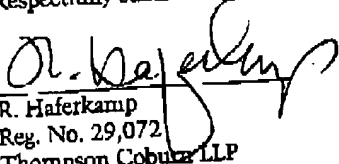
During the interview, the prior art cited and made of record by the previous Office Action were also discussed including the shortcomings thereof. For example, Guheen U.S. Patent No. 6,091,640 describes a ticketless reservation system which is a prepaid system requiring human interaction between the user/purchaser and the reservation office for placement of the reservation. Unlike the present invention, this patent describes a two-party transaction between a user/purchaser and a reservation system. Furthermore, the system accepts only prepaid reservations on a "once-and-done" basis such that there is no facility or provision for amending or changing the reservation other than canceling the reservation and re-entering a new one. Further distinctions between the reference and the claims in the application are detailed in a previous amendment already of record.

After the foregoing discussions, the claims of record were reviewed and discussed and suggestions were made for amendment which would be favorably received and would hopefully

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place the claims in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the present amendment is being provided to adopt the recommendations and suggestions made during the interview. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested. In order to expedite the prosecution of the application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone Applicant's undersigned representative in the event that further amendments are desired in order to place the claims in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,


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